



California Certified Crop Adviser

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The California Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Board of Directors wishes to encourage the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 5 to utilize the CCA credentialing program in their rule for Milk Cow Dairies. CCAs are highly qualified to provide professional support to dairy producers who are required to complete Nutrient Management Plans.

The CCA is an international certification program administered by the American Society of Agronomy. Information on the CCA program may be found at <http://www.agronomy.org/cca/> (international program) and <http://www.cacca.org/> (California-specific information).

In considering our request, please consider the following facts about CCAs in California. CCA competence is certified in four broad areas: Crop nutrient management, soil and water management, general crop management, and integrated pest management. The CCA program requires an applicant to have at least 2 years of experience as a crop consultant, pass rigorous state and international exams in the aforementioned four subject matter areas, obtain references from an employer and a client, sign an Ethics Pledge, and complete 40 Continuing Education Units every two years to maintain the credential. The Ethics pledge places CCAs at risk of losing their credential if they knowingly act contrary to the public trust. There are over 450 CCAs in California, the majority in the Central Valley. Our exam for new CCA applicants held on February 2, 2007 attracted 49 new candidates.

CCAs in California work in a wide range of cropping systems and with many different nutrient management challenges. Certainly not all CCAs possess detailed knowledge of dairy manure management. However, the CCA program is designed to ensure a high level of technical knowledge in the fundamentals of crop nutrition and soil fertility, soil chemistry and microbiology, soil organic matter, waste applications to soil, and water quality protection.

The CCA program stands for integrity, education, and environmental stewardship. The CCA credential assures the public that an individual has demonstrated technical proficiency, commitment to ethical practices, and continuing education.

Allan Romander
Vice President
California Certified Crop Advisors